

REMARKS

Presently, claims 1, 4, 6 to 10 and 13 to 28 are pending in the application. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 4, 6, 15, 21 and 23 to 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Markham U.S. Patent No. 5,176,699. Claims 1, 4, 6, 15 and 22 to 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the Sacker et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,776,146. Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Markham or Sacker et al. Claims 16, 17, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schad (WO 96/30058) in view of either Markham or Sacker et al. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Williams U.S. Patent No. 5,447,684 over Markham or Sackier et al. Claim 26 is indicated as containing allowable subject matter and claims 13 is allowed. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration and reexamination of the application.

The Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph on the reasoning that connector housings and luer locks lack first and second parts rotatable with respect to each other about a pivot. Applicants have amended the claim language to specify a pivot point, which a condition a luer lock clearly meets.

Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), neither Sacker et al. nor Markham disclose surfaces in facing relation bearing projections to allow fluid passage. They show devices having gears in which the surfaces of the devices which are in facing relation do not bear projections.

Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), none of references show the concept of placing projections on surfaces which are in facing relation to one another to allow penetration of fluid between the surfaces.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is presently in condition for allowance and request favorable reconsideration and early notice of allowance. If it would be helpful, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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